



St Joseph's Catholic School, Fairfield

Sunday 28 February 2021

Kia Ora Whānau

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister last night, we are moving to Alert Level 2 from 6am this morning, initially for 7 days. We will revert to our Alert Level 2 safety plan which you will be familiar with now. SCHOOL IS OPEN FOR ALL STUDENTS; we have got through this before, we can do it again. Kia Kaha.

All our decisions are based on the guidelines from the Ministries of Health and Education. We are confident in the measures we have in place to ensure the safety of our students, staff and community. Remember the key principles for Alert Level 2 are to:

- reduce the risk of someone getting infected in the first place.
- ensure we can identify and contact anyone who becomes infected.
- understand that Level 2 is not business as usual.

Most importantly: **IF YOUR CHILD IS UNWELL, YOU NEED TO KEEP THEM HOME.** Seek advice from your GP or Healthline.

What Health and Safety procedures will be in place?

- regular cleaning of surfaces
- regular handwashing and use of sanitiser
- reminding and helping children with important habits such as coughing and sneezing into their elbows

Can parents and caregivers come on-site at school at Level 2?:

Only if absolutely necessary. Schools are required to keep contact tracing registers, which means every visitor onsite must be signed in, including parents. As you can appreciate, *this is difficult for us to manage*, so **we ask parents to stay outside the school grounds**. If you **need** to come onsite, you must sign in and out at the school office, or with a staff member at a school entrance. Parents who need to come onsite will not be allowed into classrooms. Our school office is only open for essential business with '1 in, 1 out' and '2 metre social distancing' in effect. If you need to collect a child e.g. for an appointment, you can phone the office on 07 8555 434 from Strowan Avenue and we will bring them to you.

How will school drop offs and pickups work as parents cannot come onsite?

We know that at the school gates and around classrooms it is difficult to maintain the 2 metre social distancing requirements, so we ask parents to drop children off rather than coming into school, or even better, have your child bike, scooter or walk to school to avoid congestion. We ask parents to stay at their cars where possible, or walk your children to the entrance to say goodbye if needed. Staff will be at the entrances to school (Strowan Ave and by the PE shed)

to welcome your child onsite. Parents who **need** to come onsite will need to sign in and will not be allowed into classrooms.

As traffic and parking are an issue for St Joseph's at the best of times, **we will run an optional staggered end of day pick up during Alert Level 2** from Monday 01 March. The aim of this is to ease the pressure on parking in Strowan, and to ensure that we can manage the congested waiting zone at the school office.

St Joseph's Fairfield "optional" staggered end of day arrangements:

- Students can be released at 2.25pm with parental permission: **Parents can let teachers know if their child can be released from class at 2.25pm, ready for pick up from 2.30pm. Please email your child's teacher directly to be added to this list.** This can be a standard instruction for the duration of Level 2, or can change daily, but the email must be received by the teacher before 1.30pm.
- All other students will be released at 2.45pm as normal.

If your children are old enough to walk to Dalethorpe Ave or Haultain St to be picked up, please put this arrangement in place as staff will be there to watch your child until you get there. We hope this will make a significant difference to the congestion and will allow social distancing expectations to be adhered to. Parents, we know you will model these expectations to your children at your pick up points if you are chatting to other parents.

Staff will be at these points between 2.30-3.00pm:

- Traffic Lights Crossing on Clarkin Road
- In front of the Church
- Haultain St corner
- Strowan Ave entrance by the School Office
- Dalethorpe Avenue (end of Strowan Avenue)

We know that the parents of our 5 year olds may be the exception to coming onsite, particularly those who have just started school. Matatipu parents will need to be signed in at the gates by staff if they come onsite to help their 5 year olds put their bag away and hand them over to their teacher at the classroom door. To enable this to happen with social distancing applied, Matatipu students can arrive any time until 9.15am, and can be picked up from 2.15pm until the Alert Level 2 situation is reviewed.

Other points to note:

- Our drinking fountains have remained turned off. Please ensure your child has a personal water bottle.
- The playground will not be open after school as parents will not be onsite to supervise their children.
- Class PE and games can continue under Level 2, we will await advice from other sports organisations.
- SKIDS: Under Alert Level 2 after school care will operate with contact tracing in place.
- The school office is open for essential business only with social distancing in place. You can phone the office on 07 8555434.

What can we do to support the school and our kids?

Keep any students who are sick at home until they are well - remember, the Prime Minister has said that the bar should be low around sickness. Keep reminding them about the importance of hygiene and washing their hands. Ask about their school day and stay connected to us via Facebook and email, Seesaw and Hero as appropriate.

We appreciate your understanding around the processes we will be putting in place at Alert Level 2 to keep our students safe, happy and learning while following the guidelines. We will keep you well informed and updated about our protocols.

For more detailed information at Alert Level 2, you can visit <https://covid19.govt.nz>

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to email me - g.stuart@stjosephs.school.nz

Thanks again for all your support and understanding as we enter another challenging period.

Ngā Mihi
Grant Stuart
Principal